

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 16, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 25 are amended herein. Claims 1-25 remain pending in the application.

The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider earlier rejections in light of the following remarks. No new issues are raised nor is further search required as a result of the changes made herein. Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Interview with the Examiner

The Applicants thank the Examiner, Mr. Jefferey Harold, and the Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Forester Isen, for the personal interview granted on December 4, 2003.

The amendments made herein are based on discussions during the interview of known prior art.

Claims 1, 12 and 13 over Gutzmer

In the Office Action, claims 1, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Gutzmer, U.S. Patent No. 4,907,267 ("Gutzmer") with claim 13 further allegedly obvious over Gutzmer in view of well known prior art ("WKPA"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1, 12 and 13 recite, *inter alia*, an apparatus that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions.

Gutzmer appears to disclose an apparatus for connecting a telecommunications device, such as a computer or facsimile machine modem to a telephone line via a telephone set (Abstract). The device converts a telephone base handset jack into a telephone line connection (Gutzmer, col. 3, lines 12-14). Accordingly, the device permits the coupling of any telephone line compatible device, i.e., modem, facsimile machines, speaker phones, etc. to a telephone line (Gutzmer, col. 3, lines 14-17).

Gutzmer discloses an apparatus and method of connecting any device that conventionally connects to a wall outlet to a telephone base handset jack for convenience. Each of the items connected to the telephone base handset jack are independent devices, each having their own respective ringers, dialers, and hook-switches. Gutzmer fails to disclose an apparatus that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions, as recited by claims 1, 12 and 13.

WKPA is relied on to disclose a telephone line interface (Office Action, page 9). Gutzmer discloses a telephone line interface 32 (Gutzmer, Fig. 1, item 20).

Neither Gutzmer nor WKPA, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest an apparatus that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions, as recited by claims 1, 12 and 13

A benefit of an apparatus that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions is, e.g., added functionality at a minimum of costs. Gutzmer connects a fully functional speakerphone, i.e., one that can be connected to a wall outlet, to a handset jack of a base telephone. A common telephone has the majority of functions that a speaker phone has sans the speakerphone function. Adapting a common telephone to perform speakerphone functions requires little change to the common telephone. A device that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions can add functionality to the common telephone at a minimum cost and complexity. Adding circuitry for speakerphone capability to a common telephone while relying on the common telephone for the remainder of telephony functions is a low cost alternative to buying a completely new telephone with speakerphone capability built in. Moreover, as the device adapts a common telephone, the added device could be portably attached to various common telephones that a user would like to add speakerphone capability to. Such benefits are not disclosed or suggested by the cited prior art.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 1, 12 and 13 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 3, 16 and 18-20 over Gutzmer in view of Acree

In the Office Action, claims 2, 3, 16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Gutzmer in view of Acree, U.S. Patent No. 5,099,514 ("Acree"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on claim 1, and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 recite, *inter alia*, an apparatus comprising a speakerphone microphone and a speakerphone loudspeaker that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions. Claims 16 and 18-20 recite, *inter alia*, transporting a portable speakerphone loudspeaker and a speakerphone microphone to a common telephone, and relying on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions.

As discussed above, Gutzmer discloses connecting a speakerphone to a handset jack of a telephone base. The speakerphone does not change the function of the telephone base, as it is using the telephone base simply as a convenient way of connecting to a telephone line. The speakerphone connecting to a handset jack is a fully functional speakerphone, the speakerphone performs its own dialing functions, ringing functions and hook-switch functions. Gutzmer fails to disclose or suggest a method and apparatus that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions, as recited by claims 2, 3, 16 and 18-20.

The Office Action relies on Acree to allegedly make up for the deficiencies in Gutzmer to arrive at the claimed invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Acree appears to disclose a multi-purpose telephone accessory unit for persons who use a telephone for extended periods of time (Abstract).

The telephone accessory unit has a headset, an AC/DC transformer, and a housing (Acree, col. 3, lines 31-32). A telephone line is connected to the housing unit at a telephone line interface (Acree, col. 3, lines 53-56). A headset unit including a mouth piece microphone is used to communicate with the telephone line (Acree, col. 3, lines 46-52). Alternately, the housing unit contains an internal microphone for communication with the telephone line (Acree, col. 3, lines 42-45).

Acree discloses a multi-purpose telephone accessory unit that replaces a telephone. The multi-purpose telephone accessory unit is convenient because it includes a headset for extended use. The headset allows its wearer to hear a telephone conversation, not comprising a speakerphone loudspeaker and a speakerphone microphone. Acree fails to disclose or suggest a method and apparatus that utilize a speakerphone loudspeaker and a speakerphone microphone that rely on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions, as recited by claims 2, 3, 16 and 18-20.

Neither Gutzmer nor Acree, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest a method and apparatus that a method and apparatus that utilize a speakerphone loudspeaker and a speakerphone microphone that rely on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions, as recited by claims 2, 3, 16 and 18-20.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 2, 3, 16 and 18-20 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 5 and 7-11 over Gutzmer in view of Arbel

In the Office Action, claims 4, 5 and 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Gutzmer in view of Arbel, U.S. Patent No. 4,912,758 ("Arbel"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 4, 5 and 7-11 are dependent on claim 1, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 4, 5 and 7-11 recite, *inter alia*, an apparatus that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions.

As discussed above, Gutzmer fails to disclose or suggest an apparatus that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions, as recited by claims 4, 5 and 7-11.

The Office Action relies on Arbel to allegedly make up for the deficiencies in Gutzmer to arrive at the claimed invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Arbel appears to disclose a full-duplex digital speakerphone that includes a room echo cancellation adaptive filter and a trunk echo cancellation adaptive filter (Abstract). The speakerphone eliminates error signals related to either A-Law or Mu-Law quantization and linearity errors (Arbel, col. 2, lines 32-35).

Arbel discloses eliminating problems associated with full-duplex digital speakerphones. Arbel fails to disclose a common telephone, much less an apparatus that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions, as recited by claims 4, 5 and 7-11.

Neither Gutzmer nor Arbel, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest an apparatus that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions, as recited by claims 4, 5 and 7-11.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 4, 5 and 7-11 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 14, 17, 18, 21 and 22 over Gutzmer in view of Papadopoulos

In the Office Action, claims 14, 17, 18, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Gutzmer in view of Papadopoulos, U.S. Patent No. 5,623,544 (“Papadopoulos”). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 14, 17, 18, 21 and 22 are dependent on claims 1, 16 and 20 respectively, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 16 and 20.

Claims 14, 21 and 22 recites, *inter alia*, an apparatus comprising a speakerphone microphone and a speakerphone loudspeaker that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions. Claims 17, 18, 21 and 22 recite, *inter alia*, transporting a portable speakerphone loudspeaker and a speakerphone microphone to a common telephone, and relying on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions.

As discussed above, Gutzmer fails to disclose or suggest a method and apparatus that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions, as recited by claims 14, 17, 18, 21 and 22.

The Office Action relies on Papadopoulos to allegedly make up for the deficiencies in Gutzmer to arrive at the claimed invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Papadopoulos appears to disclose a telephone headset interface circuit that is coupled to a telephone line to extract power for use by a headset amplifier (Abstract). A switch provides compatibility of the telephone headset interface circuit with telephones of various types (Papadopoulos, col. 10, lines 44-47).

Papadopoulos discloses a telephone having a headset that can be used as an alternative to a conventional handset. Papadopoulos fails to even mention a speakerphone, much less a method and apparatus that utilize a speakerphone loudspeaker and a speakerphone microphone that rely on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions, as recited by claims 2, 3, 16 and 18-20.

Neither Gutzmer nor Papadopoulos, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest a method and apparatus that utilize a speakerphone loudspeaker and a speakerphone microphone that rely on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions, as recited by claims 2, 3, 16 and 18-20.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 14, 17, 18, 21 and 22 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 15, 24 and 25 over Gutzmer in view of McDuffee

In the Office Action, claims 15, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Gutzmer in view of McDuffee, U.S. Patent No. 6,002,945 ("McDuffee"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 15, 24 and 25 are dependent on claims 1 and 20 respectively, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 20.

Claims 15, 24 and 25 recite, *inter alia*, a method and apparatus that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions.

As discussed above, Gutzmer fails to disclose a method and apparatus that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions, as recited by claims 15, 24 and 25.

McDuffee appears to disclose a radio frequency two-way electronic communications device incorporating features of both a mobile pager and a cellular phone (Abstract).

McDuffee's device performs its own dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions. McDuffee fails to even mention a method and apparatus utilizing speakerphone components, much less relying on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions, as recited by claims 15, 24 and 25.

Neither Gutzmer nor McDuffee, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest a method and apparatus that relies on a common telephone for dialing functions, ringing functions, and hook-switch functions, as recited by claims 15, 24 and 25.

Moreover, claims 24 and 25 recite, *inter alia*, a speakerphone microphone adaptively attached to a voice pager speakerphone.

Gutzmer's invention is directed toward providing a convenient location to connect various devices to a wired telephone network. Gutzmer fails disclose or suggest use of a pager, much less disclose or suggest a speakerphone microphone adaptively attached to a voice pager speakerphone, as recited by claims 24 and 25.

McDuffee fails to even mention a speakerphone, provide speakerphone capability to a disclosed device, much less disclose or suggest a speakerphone microphone adaptively attached to a voice pager speakerphone, as recited by claims 24 and 25.

Moreover, Gutzmer's invention is directed toward providing a convenient location to connect various devices to a wired telephone network. McDuffee invention is directed toward a wireless mobile pager cellular phone. Combining Gutzmer's system that provides a convenient location to attach various wired devices to a wired telephone network with McDuffee's wireless mobile pager cellular phone is not disclosed or suggested by the cited prior art.

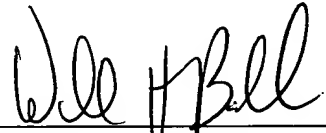
Even if the theoretical combination of Gutzmer and McDuffee were obvious (which it is not), the combination would at best result in attaching various devices to a mobile pager cellular phone for access to a wireless telephone network. Even the theoretical combination of Gutzmer and McDuffee would fail to disclose or suggest a speakerphone microphone adaptively attached to a voice pager speakerphone, as recited by claims 24 and 25.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 15, 24 and 25 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William H. Bollman', written over a horizontal line.

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